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#### HONORING RINGO'S SHOP'N SAVE

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott Monarco, owner and operator of Ringo's Shop'n Save, for business excellence and commitment to public service. Mr. Monarco is a man of impeccable character who is constantly giving back to the community, and I want to acknowledge his great contribution to my colleagues in Congress.

Scott, with his family, attends school functions and charitable events for a number of organizations in the La Junta area. He is always willing to go the extra mile and selflessly contributes his time and knowledge to others. This generous attitude exudes throughout Scott Monarco's life from his family to his business.

It is for these reasons I happily rise today to honor Mr. Monarco. I hold him up to the House, and to all Americans, as a shining example of the best of America's businesses. He exemplifies the industrious spirit, can-do attitude, and community involvement that made America great.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NANCY Q. KEEFE

#### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an extraordinary journalist, Nancy Q. Keefe, who is retiring in July after 22 years with Gannett Suburban Newspapers. Ms. Keefe is being honored on June 18 by the American Jewish Committee Westchester Chapter with their Distinguished Community Relations Award for her work as a columnist and "community voice of conscience."

Nancy Q. Keefe was editorial page editor of the Gannett Suburban Newspapers from 1984–1989 and then became a columnist. She consistently wrote with unusual clarity and style about people, issues and events, often on topics that few others dared to tackle. During her stint as editorial page editor, she wrote editorials and columns favoring a program of transitional housing for homeless people. In appreciation, the WestHELP organization named its Mount Vernon housing complex, the first in Westchester County, for her.

As a Roman Catholic and member of an interfaith group, she traveled to Israel in the

spring of 1993 on a trip arranged through Project Interchange of the American Jewish Committee. She wrote about the experience for the newspapers.

She graduated from the College of New Rochelle in 1956 and received her master's degree from the Graduate School of Journalism in 1958. In 1981, the College of New Rochelle awarded her the Angela Merici Medal, its highest alumnae honor for service to college, church and community.

In 1991, Nancy Q. Keefe was named to the Westchester County/Avon Women's Hall of Fame, cited for being "the conscience of our community."

She was born in Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 20, 1934, the daughter of John Gorman Quirk and Ann O'Laughlin Quirk. She began her newspaper career at The Berkshire Eagle in Pittsfield and then worked at the old World-Telegram & Sun in New York City.

She and her husband, Kevin Keefe, live in Larchmont, N.Y. They have three children and three grandchildren.

For her unfailing courage, commitment to the truth and dedication to improving the lives of all in our community, Nancy Q. Keefe deserves our heartfelt thanks and congratulations. We wish her good health and happiness in her retirement from Gannett, but hope that she will continue the writing that has informed, inspired and even incited us to action for so many years.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. CRAIG MEYER WINNER OF THE 1998 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP

#### HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mr. Craig Meyer of Bella Vista, Arkansas for his winning entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1998 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. A senior at Bentonville High School, Mr. Meyer is already an active participant in our nation's democratic process—participating in the Political Science Club, the Speech and Debate Team, National Honor Society, and serving as the Co-Editor of Literary Magazine.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program, which began 50 years ago, provides financial awards to students whose writing expresses the spirit of democratic principles. Mr. Meyer's entry exemplifies the patriotism and self-sacrifice of those who gave their lives for freedom's sake.

I congratulate Mr. Meyer on his thoughtful and moving essay. Mr. Speaker, I just might borrow it sometime!

I would also like to thank VFW Post 9063 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Bella Vista, Arkansas for sponsoring Mr. Meyer. This nation owes a debt of gratitude it can never repay to our veterans—those who served our country in times of crisis and who continue to serve our communities through programs such as this.

#### "MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"

1997–98 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION—ARKANSAS WINNER, CRAIG MEYER

It's the voice on the campaign trail, it's the voice on a soapbox in the employee wash-

room. It's the schoolteacher's voice educating the future. It's the reporter writing his morning column, it's the corporate Public Relations Ad executive writing his press release. It's the museum curator demonstrating Warhol, and the bag lady huddled over a heating grate. It's the smooth jazz sounding out, echoing out over the city skyline.

The voices of our democracy come together, they form a chorus, form a symphony. From the soft prayer of childhood, to the savage battlefield roar of D-Day, to a suburban "honey, I'm home!", to the shriek of a fire engine on the fourth of July, to "New and improved—available in stores everywhere!", to the hush after a ghetto gunshot. It's PT Barnum putting his head into a lion's mouth. It's Joe McCarthy hunting down the communists.

#### IT'S AMERICA, IT'S DEMOCRACY

The real beauty of it all is that I get to find my own voice. My role isn't mapped out for me, I'm not locked into a channel. Democracy allows a person to be a citizen and not be a slave. We can not only participate in our government, but we also have the freedom to do what we want to do, to be what we want to be. Our nation allows people to think for themselves—which carries with it responsibility, carries with it the ability to be right and to be wrong. It's all about people having the freedom to decide on their own voices, the freedom to pursue their own destiny—to succeed or to fail. Democracy doesn't reside in a dollar sign or in a bomb, it lives in us. It's not just an ideology or a political theory, it's a way of life.

How do I spell out both my future and the future of my country? How do I find my voice in our democracy? Through education. Through learning about other's voices—learning from those who have been there, learning from those who experienced history firsthand. Talking to teachers, professors, auto mechanics, veterans—it's learning as much as I can about as many things as I can. I need to learn about both the issues that face our nation, and the issues that face me as a person.

With all this in mind, my own responsibility is clear—It's up to me to find a voice. It's up to me to see all sides of an issue, to question myself constantly "am I really seeing the whole picture?" It's up to me to narrow and define my voice—to not only blend into the chorus of our democracy, but also be able to do an occasional solo. But let's face it, I need to be willing to vote, to serve jury duty, to read that newspaper, to pick up a gun or a musical instrument—I need to be willing to take a stand for my beliefs.

And this is our democracy—all the glory and the gaudy, the legends (both living and dead) and the truth. The artistic and the autistic, the commerce and the commercialism, the existentialism and the exit sign—this is our America, this our democracy. It runs red through our blood. It rings in our bones, rings in our ears, and it rings in our hearts. We are a part of it, and it's a part of us.

#### RECOGNIZING MS. ELEANOR KOPLOVITZ FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO DAVID L. SILVER YESHIVA ACADEMY AND THE HARRISBURG COMMUNITY

#### HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Ms. Eleanor Koplovitz, who is being